

Senior Cup: Blues away to Buckingham

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who refused to accept the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after beating Thatcham 4-0 in last year's final, will travel to United Counties League side Buckingham Town in the first round of this season's competition on November 22.

Wycombe's refusal to accept the trophy at Chesham was their form of protest against the Berks and Bucks F.A., who had earlier refused them entry into the London Senior Cup for the third year in succession. As a result of their action, Wanderers were severely censured by the F.A. and manager Brian Lee 'very severely censured'.

The county F.A. then handed out their own punishments, one of which was making the club compete in the first round of the Senior Cup, instead of the third.

And so the Blues must travel to Ford Meadow, Buckingham, which is situated next to a river. Buckingham reached the first

round of the competition with a 1-0 victory over Newbury and Saturday's 3-1 triumph at home to Burnham, who have a fine record in cup competitions this season.

In the League, Buckingham are currently fourth but have games in hand over the clubs above them. Their record this season reads W.6, D.2, L.1, G.F. 16, G.A. 6, 14 pts. They are undergoing a probationary period as a senior club in the Berks and Bucks and they won promotion from Division Two of the United Counties League last season, finishing second.

Buckingham own their ground at Ford Meadow which includes a small stand with seats for 250 people. One of the oldest clubs in the county, they built a new

clubhouse in 1971 and have since extended the building.

Town will definitely be staging the match at home and secretary Tony Mallett feels the club have every chance of beating Wycombe.

"We didn't consider changing the venue and the game will definitely be staged at Buckingham. Rest assured we will lay on the proper facilities.

"We are an enthusiastic club and after Saturday's win over Burnham I think we have the enthusiasm to overcome Wycombe. If Wycombe rose to Middlesbrough last season, I think we can rise to Wycombe."

There is a possibility that the game will have to be re-arranged as November 22 clashes with the first round proper of the F.A.

Cup. So if Wanderers come through the fourth qualifying round, they will have to postpone their visit to Buckingham. No alternative date has been fixed as yet.

The full draw for the first round of the Senior Cup, made at Aylesbury on Saturday is: Chalfont St. Peter v Bracknell Town, Hungerford Town v Aylesbury or Marlow, Buckingham Town v Wycombe Wanderers, Maidenhead United v Wolverton.

Abingdon Town, Windsor and Eton, Milton Keynes and Chesham enter the competition at the second round stage while Slough, Rivet Sports, Thatcham and Wokingham are exempt until round three.

FIXTURES

(k.o. 2.30 p.m. unless stated)

F.A. Vase, first round: Marlow v Berkhamsted (3 p.m.), Burnham v Chobham, Farnborough Town v Amersham Town, Fleet v Chalfont St Peter.

Rothmans Isthmian League, Division 1: Wycombe Wanderers v Ilford (3 p.m.).